

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method of incorporating advertisements into video content, including the steps acts of either sensing watermark data encoded in the video content or deriving fingerprint data from the video content, and triggering advertisement insertion based thereon.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the inserted advertisement is inserted from a personal video recorder (PVR) storage device.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the inserted advertisement is provided on an optical storage disk sent to a user.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 that includes consulting a rule set to determine which advertisement to insert, based on one or more of the following parameters: time, zip code data, user demographic data, data indicating advertisements previously shown, and data indicating subject matter of the video content.

5. (Currently Amended) A method of video content delivery, including providing video content having a fingerprinted or digitally watermarked promotional message therein, and sensing same when rendered at a user device, wherein if the promotional message is skipped over, the failed sensing of the fingerprint or watermark serves to change the terms under which the content is provided.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 in which the changed terms include assessing a charge for skipping the promotional message.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of video content delivery, including providing video content having plural fingerprinted or digitally watermarked promotional messages therein, and sensing same when rendered at a user device, wherein

sensing of one or more of said fingerprinted or watermarked messages entitles a user to access other content or capabilities.

8. (Previously Presented) A method of video content delivery, including providing video content having a first digital watermark inserted during distribution thereof by a first entity, and a second digital watermark earlier inserted by a different entity.

9. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
receiving video content at a user device without paying a proprietor for the content;
rendering the video content for viewing;
detecting a fingerprint or digital watermark in the rendered video content; and
triggering a payment to said proprietor based on detection of the fingerprint or digital watermark during rendering.

10. (Original) A method comprising:
rendering video content to a user, the video content including promotional content integrated therein, rather than interrupting same;
receiving a signal from a user interaction device indicating selection of the promotional content;
in response to said selection, providing to said user additional promotional information related to the selected promotional content; and
providing the user a reward for receiving said additional promotional information.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 in which the reward includes promotional points redeemable for premiums.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 in which said additional promotional information is provided to the user through a process that makes use of fingerprint or digital watermark information conveyed ~~in said~~ by said video content.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of rendering video content, comprising:
decoding a watermark or deriving a fingerprint from a portion of the video not yet rendered to a user display;
determining from said watermark or fingerprint a rating of said portion;
consulting a data store to obtain a desired rating; and
if said portion has a rating not in compliance with the desired rating, triggering a responsive action;
wherein video content not in compliance with the desired rating is not rendered to the user display.
14. (Original) The method of claim 13 in which the action is not rendering said portion to the user display.
15. (Original) The method of claim 13 in which the action is substituting a different portion for said portion and rendering the substitute portion for user display.
16. (Original) A method comprising:
sensing a photo identification document presented to an optical sensor device by a user, the sensor device yielding image data;
decoding a digital watermark from the image data;
confirming the user's age by reference to said digital watermark; and
enabling an action based on confirmation of the user's age.
17. (Currently Amended) In a projection system that includes a projector and a screen, the projector projecting light corresponding to a motion picture onto the screen, an improvement comprising interposing into said system a variable transparency, and driving the transparency with signals causing it to impose a fingerprint or digital watermark on the projected motion picture.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17 in which the variable transparency is positioned in a focal plane of the system.

19. (Original) In a content creation software tool, an improvement comprising a user interface permitting a user to specify digital watermark information, and a software interface permitting the tool to pass said information, together with content data, to an on-line watermarking server, and receive back therefrom a watermarked version of the content data.

20. (Previously Presented) A portable video recording device having included therein a watermark detector, wherein the device can sense – by detection of a watermark – if it is being used to film a scene such as a copyrighted movie having a watermark encoded therein, and upon sensing same, stop recording.

21. (Previously Presented). The method of claim 8 wherein the second digital watermark permits user linking to connected content specified by said different entity, and the first digital watermark permits user linking to connected content specified by said first entity.